(c) the action taken to clear the pending drought relief assistance early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In order to mitigate the distressing situation of farmers due to the problem of indebtedness, the Government on 18th June, 2004 has announced a special package for providing credit related relief to the farmers, which *inter-alia* include (i) facilitation by NABARD for formation and financing of self-help groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees during 2004-05 (ii) review of scales of finance to meet the realistic credit needs of farmers especially capital intensive agricultural operations (iii) debt restructuring by commercial banks, RRBs and cooperatives in accordance with the new guidelines to be laid down by RBI/NABARD.

(c) On the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Central assistance of Rs. 50.58 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and Rs. 7.82 lakh MTs of foodgrains, free of cost, under Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has so far been released for the drought of 2003-04. The above assistance is in addition to the Central share of Rs.171.96 crores released to the State Government during 2003-04 from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF).

Coconut Research Institute

91. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Kerala Government for establishing a Coconut Research Institute in Kerala by ICAR;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the objectives of the Institute;

(c) whether the necessary clearance has been accorded for the project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) (a) and (b) The ICAR has established the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod, Kerala, which does research on various aspects of coconut cultivation, production and post-harvest management. However, a proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for establishing a Coconut Fibre Technological Institute in Kerala on 29.8.02

(c) and(d) The State Government was informed in 2002 that since Ministry of Industries, Government of India has established Coir Board to promote Indian Coir Industry and two Research Institutes *viz.* Central Coir Research Institute, Kalavoor, Alleppy (Kerala) and Central Institute of Coir Technology (CICT), Bangalore (Karnataka) are functioning under the Coir Board, the research as required can be conducted in collaboration with these institutes.

Sick units of FCI

†92.SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units functioning under Fertilizer Corporation of India in the country which are sick or closed or proposed to be closed down;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the causes of their sickness or closure; if so, whether there is any proposal of handing over these closed units to private sector to make them functional, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of fertilizers produced in all the public sector units this year and whether it can meet the requirement in our country; and

(d) if not, the initiatives Government are taking to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) and (b) Fertilizer

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.